

The Old Time Radio Club

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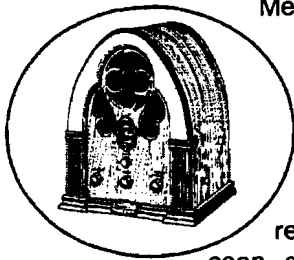
If Dad came in he'd raise a row.
He'd warm their little seats, and howl
They'll take the chance and hear
the game--
Their old man's doing just the same.

It's "Hockey Night", and far and
wide,
In city, town and countryside,
Both young and old, as you can see,
Are tuned in to CFRB.

860 KC **CFRB** TORONTO
10,000 WATTS OF SELLING POWER!

Membership Information

New member processing, \$5.00 plus club membership of \$15.00 per year from Jan 1 to Dec 31.



Members receive a tape library listing, reference library listing, and a monthly newsletter.

Memberships are as follows: If you join Jan-Mar, \$15.00; Apr-Jun, \$12.00; Jul-Sep, \$8.00; Oct-Dec, \$5.00. All renewals should be sent in as

soon as possible to avoid missing issues. Please be sure to notify us if you have a change of address. The **Old Time Radio Club** meets the first Monday of every month at 7:30 P.M. during the months of September to June at 393 George Urban Blvd. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14225. The club meets informally during the months of July and August at the same address. Anyone interested in the Golden Age of Radio is welcome. The **Old Time Radio Club** is affiliated with The Old Time Radio Network.

Club Mailing Address

Old Time Radio Club
P.O. Box 426
Lancaster, N. Y. 14086

Back issues of the *Illustrated Press* are \$1.50 postpaid. Publications out of print may be borrowed from our Reference Library.

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Tape Library Rates: All reels and video cassettes are \$1.85 per month; audio cassettes and records are \$0.85 per month. Rates include postage and handling. Canadian rates are the same as above, but in Canadian funds.

Molly and Me

by Fibber McGee

part three, continued from the March '93, IP

I had a taste of show business during the war, and it was sticking to my palate. I had been sick on the way to France, so spent my first month of the war in a hospital bed. After that, when I couldn't get back into the service, I organized a musical troupe, and gave shows for soldiers all through the rear lines.

back in Peoria, I had satisfied my thirst for the theater by singing my lungs out over the living room organ. Molly had studied music, so we made a duo, pretty soon we found another couple of the same mind, and the duo became a quartet.

Molly made the important decision.

"Jim," she said, after one of our soul satisfying singing sessions, "I think you ought to quit your job. Any one who gets as much fun out of singing as you do ought to sing for a living."

The living room quartet became "Jim and Molly Jordan and their sixteen-piece ensemble." Well, we did play four instruments apiece, but you can see where the "Fibber" came from.

We lived in a trunk after that, and saw the world. Tilly Foster, N.Y., Tullahoma, Tenn., Texarkana, Arkansas, places like that. If there was no decent hotel in the stop over towns, we put up with the leading citizens, and Molly and our hostesses swapped recipes.

Radio for us, was the up shot of a dare. We were listening to a program on Chicago's WMAQ one evening in 1924, when a friend challenged us to go down to the station for an audition. We took the dare, got a job the next day, at ten dollars a week, with the "Smith Family." When NBC bought out the station, we

became the "Singing Sweethearts" on a program of our own and ten years ago did our first script show. The series was "Smack-Out," and the writer was Don Quinn. Don is still with us, and there isn't a better radio writer in the business.

The country store proprietor in "Smackout" evolved by natural processes into Fibber McGee, only I didn't take the name until Molly and I signed with our present sponsors.

Except for "Good-night, Molly," we've written Molly out of the scripts for nearly a year now; but her fans never have. Their letters never change; even while she was away, they all began, "Dear Fibber and Molly."

We were torn, when she came home in April, between a desire to shield her from further fatigue and the urge to let her go to the microphone herself to say thank you, and hello. Molly solved the problem herself one evening, when Don Quinn was dining with us.

"Why don't you write me into the last show?" popped up in the middle of a conversation about duck hunting.

We didn't tell the cast our plans, and rehearsed a sign off without Molly. The players were thrilled the night of the broadcast, to see Molly in the control room with Producer Cecil Underwood. But the studio audience didn't know she was there.

I don't know how I got through the first twenty eight minutes of that show. I did my lines with one eye on my script, and one eye on Molly. She still wasn't strong, and I was frantic for fear the effort of facing the crowd would be too much for her. But the cue came.

"Radio friends," I said, "you have asked so often in your letters about Molly. I had planned to give you a message from her tonight. But here she is in the studio. I'll let her speak for herself."

Molly was trembling as she walked up to the mike. She looked at me with wide eyes, and I knew the fear that was in her heart, the fear that no words would come when the moment came for her to say:

"Hello! It's nice to talk to you again."

But she needn't have worried. It was a whole minute and a half before she could make herself heard. The audience went wild with applause. When, finally, I signaled for silence, Molly was her old self, assured and gay. The program wound up on a note of high excitement.

"If it's as much fun as that," I teased her as we left the studio, and pointed the car toward Peterson Woods, "you really ought to make a living at it."

And she will again--soon.

Los Angeles: William Conrad, who played the rotund district attorney in TV's *Jake and the Fatman* and whose booming voice narrated such popular shows as *Rocky & His Friends* and the *Fugitive* died Friday of a heart attack. He was 73.

Conrad became ill at his home and died in the Medical Center of North Hollywood, said hospital spokeswoman, Tricia Spellman.

Conrad played J. L. "Fatman" McCabe, a tough district attorney and a former cop, on the CBS-TV series *Jake and the Fatman*, which ran from 1987 to 1992. He also starred in the detective series *Cannon* which ran from 1971 to 1976 on CBS.

So ran the obituary to one of the greatest of the OTR performers. Long forgotten by the general public were his outstanding roles in *Gunsmoke* and *Escape*. And who can ever forget his opening in *Escape*;

*Tired of the everyday grind?
Ever dream of a life of --- romantic adventure?
Want to get away from it all?
We offer you -- Escape!*

Then came the show's theme, "Night On Bald Mountain" followed by --

Escape! Designed to free you from the four walls of today for a half hour of high adventure!

I still get chills listening to that opening.

Not only did Conrad star as Matt Dillon in *Gunsmoke* and narrate and star in *Escape*, but also acted, produced, and directed in some of OTR other well known programs, including, *CBS Radio Workshop*, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, *Damon Runyon Theatre*, *The First Nighter Program*, *Jason and the Golden Fleece*, *Johnny Madero*, *Pier 23*, *Nightbeat*, *On Stage*, *Pete Kelly's Blues*, and *Voyage of The Scarlet Queen*. His resume' included over 7,500 radio programs.

He also provided the background narration on

TONIGHT

[1941]

A brand new radio show

BOB BURNS

as the

ARKANSAS TRAVELER

brought to you by
A BRAND NEW SOUP

Campbell's

CREAM OF POTATO

WIBX 8^{30 P.M.} EVERY TUESDAY

many TV series, most notably *The Fugitive*, *The Invaders* and *Rocky and The Bullwinkle Show (Rocky and His Friends)*.

His movie credits included *The Killers*, *Body and Soul*, *Sorry, Wrong Number*, *East Side, West Side*, *The Naked Jungle*, *Five Against the House*, *Johnny Concho*, *-30-*, and *The Road Block*. He also worked in the production and direction of *An American Dream* and *First to Fight*.

William Conrad, a true man for all seasons, will be greatly missed by all and especially by all his Old Time Radio fans.

The Truth About Orphan Annie's Undercover Organization

by **George Kunz**

The only undercover organization to which I ever belonged was Little Orphan Annie's Secret Society. I became involved when I was a kid: afternoons at 5:30.

Meetings were broadcast over network radio. Secret society members sat in tense silence by their wooden radio cabinets.

Based on the famous Harold Grey comic strip, Orphan Annie lent herself to radio drama in the days of children's serials. Voices were easily identifiable: Daddy Warbucks' venerable baritone contrasted with Annie's perky, pipey falsetto. Sandy spoke in a growl or a happy bark.

Like all mysterious organizations, Orphan Annie's Secret Society was immersed in ceremony. Meetings began with a ritual song: "Who's that little chatterbox? The one with pretty auburn locks? Who do you see? It's Little Orphan Annie."

The syndicate behind Orphan Annie's operation was the Ovaltine gang. In the 1930s, Ovaltine was a product, gravel like in texture. Mixed with milk, it emitted a taste, part malty and part chocolate -- not altogether

pleasant.

Of course, any veteran of Orphan Annie's Secret Society remembers that the real reason for drinking Ovaltine was to get possession of the precious inner seal. This certificate was the key to untold treasure. One inner seal secured a leaky shake up mug, with a picture of Annie and Sandy, for mixing Ovaltine with milk.

But the plot thickened. For extra inner seals, society members received rings, badges, buttons - and the secret code. This latter enabled the user to unscramble cryptic messages, dictated over the radio.

Here's the way the code worked: even numbers 2, 4, 6, etc. stood for letters A, B, C, etc. Odd numbers were given only to confuse the uninitiated. Thus at a critical point in the radio drama, if, for example, a property deed had been lost, the announcer would breathlessly confide: Well...boys and girls, for members of Orphan Annie's Secret Society, I've got a hint about the lost deed...Got your paper and pencils ready? Here goes..."

Laboriously, conspiratorially, the voice intoned the faithful numbers. When deciphered, they would translate to something like "Hidden under a rock." Wow! That's what it was like to be in a secret society!

For the fun Orphan Annie gave me, I am grateful. I hope after all these years, that I have not compromised my honor as a club member by divulging arcane information about our secret society.

BOAKE CARTER

Now on a NEW Time
6:30 P. M. Monday thru Friday

WKBW

Sponsored by
Post Toasties and Huskies

[1939]

OTR Interview

Through the medium of imagination, the staff at the *Illustrated Press* have been able to interview a few radio personalities from the golden past. This month's interview is with Pauline Frederick, newscaster. She is heard Monday thru Friday, at 8:50 A. M. EST, over the American Broadcasting Company radio network

The questions are ours, the answers are Pauline's from 1949.

IP: Miss Frederick, being the first woman to become a network reporter, I'm sure you must have been asked why you wanted to work in the "man's world" of network newscasting.

Frederick: Women know of suffering so why shouldn't they be interested in news of floods, fires and other disasters? And can only men understand prices and supplies of goods when woman must shop for the family food and clothing?"

IP: When ABC defied a prejudice against female news announcers, it must have been a well earned victory for you after many setbacks.

Frederick: Sometimes I almost gave up and would go off for a good long cry. But it was the anger more than anything else that made me stick it out. I believe in being a reporter, but with it all being womanly. And my being womanly I don't mean being a coy, kittenish female.

IP: What were some of the reasons the radio networks gave for not hiring you?

Frederick: We don't like women reporters and won't have them, so stop bothering us, A women's voice does not sound authoritative ... emotional and non-objective.

IP: You first job was for the Harrisburg

Evening News as their society reporter, how did this experience effect you future?

Frederick: I took this job right out of high school and reported on who had dinner with whom and what they wore and whom they were going to marry. If this is newspaper work, it's an awfully silly way to waste your life. So I quit.

IP: Then what did you do?

Frederick: I accepted a scholarship to American University in Washington D.C., graduated magna cum laude, and spent two years in law school.

IP: How did you break into radio?

Frederick: I got a part time job with H. R. Baukhage, the newscaster. He warned me to stay away from radio, it doesn't like women. All this talk made me mad, so I stayed in Washington and began to do more radio reporting, with occasional network interviews for the program, *Let's Talk It Over*. In 1946 I went to New York, where the four major radio networks were headquartered, to look for employment.

IP: How were you received by the major radio networks?

Frederick: One network vice-president told me he would quit his job before he hired a woman. I received a similar brush off from all the other networks, except ABC. They wanted a woman reporter to report on a forum discussing the subject, "How to Get a Husband." After that they gave me other assignments, like the first post war sale of nylons. I must have done a good job, because I was then assigned to cover the Big Four Foreign Ministers Conference, the top story of the day. Later I was the only woman radio reporter at the United Nations. This finally lead to my regular morning radio newscast. I am now accepted as an equal in the "man's world" of radio network reporting.

◆ ◆ ◆ Tuning In ◆ ◆ ◆

by Tom Heathwood

A bit of sad news to report for those in the Boston area, and those who have visited Boston for many past years. Our beloved Sherm Feller, who was the PA announcer at Fenway Park, died on January 27th, at the age of 75. Not only was Sherm known for the past 2 decades as the Voice of Fenway, but as one of the pioneers in talk-radio, doing, possibly the very first show of that type in Boston. He worked at most of the major Boston AM stations and was still combining radio and his Fenway chores even into his last years. He was once married to the lovely Judy Valentine who recorded for MGM, and he wrote hundreds of songs over is many years. He was dedicated to clean entertainment and good humor. He was a songster, story-teller, and he knew everyone in show business personally. He gave many a young person a boost along their way in radio, including me. Sherm wrote major songs such as "Snow, Snow, Beautiful Snow" which was performed by the Boston Pops on the night John Williams retired as conductor. At age 75, he was a dynamic personality whose deep, resonant voice will not be forgotten as he beckoned, "Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls," to stand for the playing of the national anthem at every home game. He was an exceptional broadcaster, an outstanding human being, and an old friend. He will be missed by everyone in Boston.

Recent guests on HERITAGE RADIO THEATRE heard nation-wide on THE YESTERDAY-USA SUPERSTATION (Satellite Radio Network) were Bob Denver (Gilligan's Island/Dobie Gillis) and Durward Kirby (The Gary Moore Show/Candid Camera).

Plans are underway for a Fred Foy album looking at Fred's major contributions to broadcasting, and his long term relationship with The Long Ranger. Heritage Radio is proud

to be part of the audio-biography.

That's the news 'till now. Write if you get work!

Member's Mike

Dear Editor,

I thought I'd write and tell you how much I enjoy the IP, and particularly the articles by Tom Heathwood and Francis Bork. I was in Western New York in the fall to take in a Buffalo Bills football game and hoped to attend one the the club's meeting. But it wasn't near the first Monday when the meeting are scheduled. My landscaping business will take me back to WNY in the late summer, and I hope I'll be able to attend a meeting.



Keep up the good work, and hope to see you then.

Jerry Doidge
Valparaiso IN

SHORT SPOTS by Dom Parisi

Match the sponsor and the radio show.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. International Sterling | a. Life Can Be Beautiful |
| 2. Lipton Tea | b. Curt Massey & Martha Tilton Show |
| 3. Dr. Lyons Tooth Powder | c. Big Sister |
| 4. Alka Seltzer | d. Ozzie and Harriet |
| 5. Eversharp | e. Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts |
| 6. Raleigh Pipe Tobacco | f. Double or Nothing |
| 7. Campbell Soup | g. Uncle Walter's Dog House |
| 8. Spic and Span | h. Amos 'n' Andy |
| 9. Rinso | i. Manhattan Merry Go Round |
| 10. Feen-A-Mint | j. Take It, or Leave It |

answers: 1-d, 2-e, 3-i, 4-b, 5-j, 6-g, 7-h, 8-a, 9-c, 10-f.

S A T U R D A Y

A.M.	NBC	MBS	ABC	CBS
9:00	Mind Your Manners		Shoppers Special	CBS News of America
9:15	Coffee in Washington	Paul Nelson, News Misc. Programs		Baryard Follies
9:30				Garden Gate
9:45				
10:00	Mary Lee Taylor	Magic Rhythm	Johnny Olsen's Got Together	Music Far You
10:15		Jerry and Skye		Tell It Again
10:30	Frank Merriwell	Coast Guard on Parade	Modern Romances	Let's Pretend
10:45	Smilin' Ed McConnell	Music	The Jay Stewart Fun Fair	Junior Misse
11:00				
11:15				
11:30				
11:45				

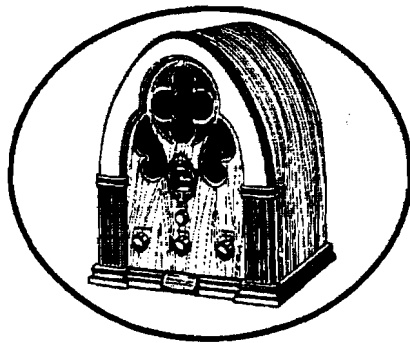
AFTERNOON PROGRAMS 1949

A.M.	NBC	MBS	ABC	CBS
12:00	Arthur Barkhult	Man on the Farm	Girls' Corps	Theatre of Today
12:15	Public Affairs	Smoky Mr. Hayride	What's My Name	Grand Central Station
12:30	Luncheon With Lopez		Concert of America	Stars Over Hollywood
12:45			Jazz	Give and Take
1:00	Nat'l Farm Home	Campus Salute	Concert of America	
1:15		Dance Orch.	What's My Name	
1:30	R.F.D. America		Concert of America	
1:45			Junior Junction	
2:00	Musicians	Dance Orch.	101 Ranch Boys	Handyman
2:15	Edward Tomlinson	Music	Junior Junction	Get Me Out of Life
2:30	Report From Europe		Treasury Band Show	Columbia's Country Journal
2:45			Fascinating Rhythm	
3:00	Local Programs	Pool's Paradise	Tom Glazer's Ballad Box	Report From Overseas
3:15		Sports Parade	Horse Racing	Adventure in Science
3:30		Bill Harrington		Cross Section U.S.A.
3:45		Music		
4:00	Your Health Today	Jerry and Skye		Saturday at the Chase
4:15		First Church of Christ Science		
4:30	Contrasts Musical	Concert Hall		
4:45				
5:00				
5:15				
5:30				
5:45				

EVENING PROGRAMS

A.M.	NBC	MBS	ABC	CBS
6:00	Bob Warren	Music	Honey Dreamers	News From Washington
6:15	Religion in the News	Bands For Bonds	Saturday Seezon	Memo From Lake Success
6:30	NBC Symphony Orchestra	Mel Allen		Saturday Sports Review
6:45		Hawaii Calls	Bert Andrews The Eye-Draught	Larry Lousieur
7:00	Vic Damone, Kay Armen	True or False	Pat Novak For Hire	Spike Jones
7:15		Twenty Questions	Famous Jury Trials	Camel Caravan with Vaughn Monroe
7:30	Hollywood Star Theatre	Take a Number	Musical Etchings	Gene Autry Show
7:45	Truth or Consequences	Life Begins at 80	Record Show Irving Fields Hayfork Hoodown	Adventure of Philip Marlowe
8:00	Your Hit Parade	Guy Lombardo		Gang Busters
8:15	A Day in the Life of Dennis Day	Theatre of the Air		Tales of Faltime
8:30				Sing It Again
8:45				
9:00				
9:15				
9:30				
9:45				
10:00	Grand Ole Opry			

**Old Time Radio Club
Box 426
Lancaster, NY 14086**



FIRST CLASS MAIL